appointed to settle there matters, depending upon the need, and necessary amendments may be made to gear up the law effectively.

[English]

(ii) Need to Expedite Work on Electrification and Doubling of Railway Track between Daund and Gulbarga

[Translation]

SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL (Solapur) : I am glad that Ministry of Railways is making efforts to double the rail line between Daund and Gulbarga but for the last several years this work is going on at slow speed. The progress of work is very slow. Sholapur is a big station on this line. This city is important from the industrial point of view and connects the North and South to West. It is for this reason that about 50 passenger trains and over 100 goods trains are operating on this line. It is because of this aspect that some problems arise in controlling the railway traffic. The number of accidents are also on rise. It also effects the trains starting from the South and on the residents of Sholapur. I request the hon'ble Minister that doubling of track and electrification work be taken up immediately.

[English]

(iii) ***Need to Prepare Comprehensive Development Programme for Export of Vegetables and Fruits from Saran District of Bihar***

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The district of Saran in Bihar can rightly be referred as "bowl of vegetables" and the land is extremely fertile for cultivation of all sorts of vegetables and fruits like Mango, Lichi etc. The boundary of Saran district starts 28 kilometers from the State capital of Patna. However, no effort has been made to promote the cultivation, marketing or export of fruits and vegetables or processed products. I request the Minister of Commerce to prepare a comprehensive development and promotional programme through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for production, processing, marketing and export of vegetables and fruits from the district of Saran in Bihar.

(iv) **Need to Provide Sufficient Funds for Promotion of Solar Energy**

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : The country is passing through power and energy crisis. Even in Delhi, the capital of the country, we are all experiencing acute shortage of power.

Precious foreign exchange is also utilised on import of petro products.

Hence, there is an urgent need for taking up steps for promotion of solar energy in our country, on a war footing. The greatest advantage is that the raw material, sun shine, is available in plenty in almost all part of the country round the year, without any cost.

I request the Union Government to consider promotion of solar energy seriously, to provide sufficient funds for achieving the speedy results and to encourage the entrepreneurs in this line by giving more and more subsidy.

(v) **Need to Exempt Residents of Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir from the Payment of Income Tax**

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : The residents of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir was exempted from payment of Income Tax under Clause (26) Section 10 of Income Tax Act of 1961 with effect from the assessment year 1962 to 1988-89 on the ground of Chinese aggression on Ladakh in 1962 which resulted in stoppage of border trades between Ladakh and Tibet and Ladakh with Shinjiang (China). With the result, the business of hundreds of Ladakhi traders was totally ruined overnight and the economy of Ladakh was badly affected. Consequent to this, the Central Government had given exemption of Income Tax to Ladakh till 1989.

In the year 1989, keeping in view of continuous poor economic conditon of the Ldakhi people, the Government of India declared over 95 per cent population of Ladakh as Scheduled Tribe and on the other, the then Government at the Centre imposed IncomeTax on the Ladakhis. From 1989 onwards the economy of Ladakh was further adversely affected becaue of the militancy in the Valley as the main supply line for Ladakh was through the Kashmir Valley.

The Scheduled Tribe as defined in Caluse (25) of Article 366 of the Constititution, a member of Scheduled Tribe residing in specified areas is exempted from payment of Inocme Tax accuring or arising to him. On the same analogy, the tribal population in many States, the North-East, Lakshdweep and Andaman & Nicobar etc. have been exempted from payment of Income Tax but not the tribals of Ladakh.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to give exemption from Income Tax to the tribal population of Ladakh with effect from the year 1989 and for a further period of five years with immediate effect.

(vi) **Need to Issue New Licence for Setting up of Sugar Mill in Supaul District, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Sir, sugarcane is produced in large scale in Supaul district of Bihar. As there is not sugar mill in this area, the farmers are unable to get the remunerative prices of their crop. The licences to set up a sugar mill in Supaul have been issued much before, but the licence-holder is not taking interest in opening sugar mill in Supaul.